

Wayne Allard

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Contact: Angela de Rocha
(202) 224-5944
Stephen Myers
(202) 224-6207

SENATOR ALLARD PRAISES JAPANESE MOVE TOWARD REOPENING ITS MARKETS TO AMERICAN BEEF

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) on Thursday praised the Japanese government for moving significantly closer toward a decision to re-open Japan's market to U.S.-raised beef.

"Japan has taken an important step toward the re-opening of its market to U.S. beef. I hope the Japanese Food Safety Commission will act expeditiously to finalize the import plan so we can put this unfortunate chapter in our trade relationship behind us," Senator Allard said.

"For Japan to remain closed to American beef simply ignores sound science. This amounts to nothing more than an arbitrary barrier to free trade. But I am encouraged by this development. It is my goal and hope that we will see the resumption of full and unrestricted trade in the very near future," said Senator Allard.

Earlier this week, Japan's ministries of agriculture and health asked that country's independent Food Safety Commission to examine whether it is safe to re-open Japan's market to American beef. American beef imports to Japan have been banned since an animal with mad cow disease was discovered in December of 2003 in the State of Washington. That animal, which was immediately isolated and destroyed, had been imported from Canada.

"Japan's Food Safety Commission needs to acknowledge that the United States has taken the proper precautions to ensure that U.S. beef is the safest in the world," Senator Allard said. "This week's announcement is the first positive step in a process that will eventually result in Japan's consumers being allowed to enjoy American beef once more."

In January, Senator Allard organized a bipartisan coalition of 14 senators in a meeting with Ambassador Ryozi Kato of Japan to discuss the embargo. Recent movement toward reopening the market has been attributed to this meeting. He also met with the Taiwan representative to discuss the reopening of its market. On April 16th, Taiwan resumed the trade of boneless beef products from cattle under 30 months of age with the United States.

"It is my hope that countries like Japan and South Korea that have persisted in their bans of American beef will now follow Taiwan's lead," Senator Allard said.